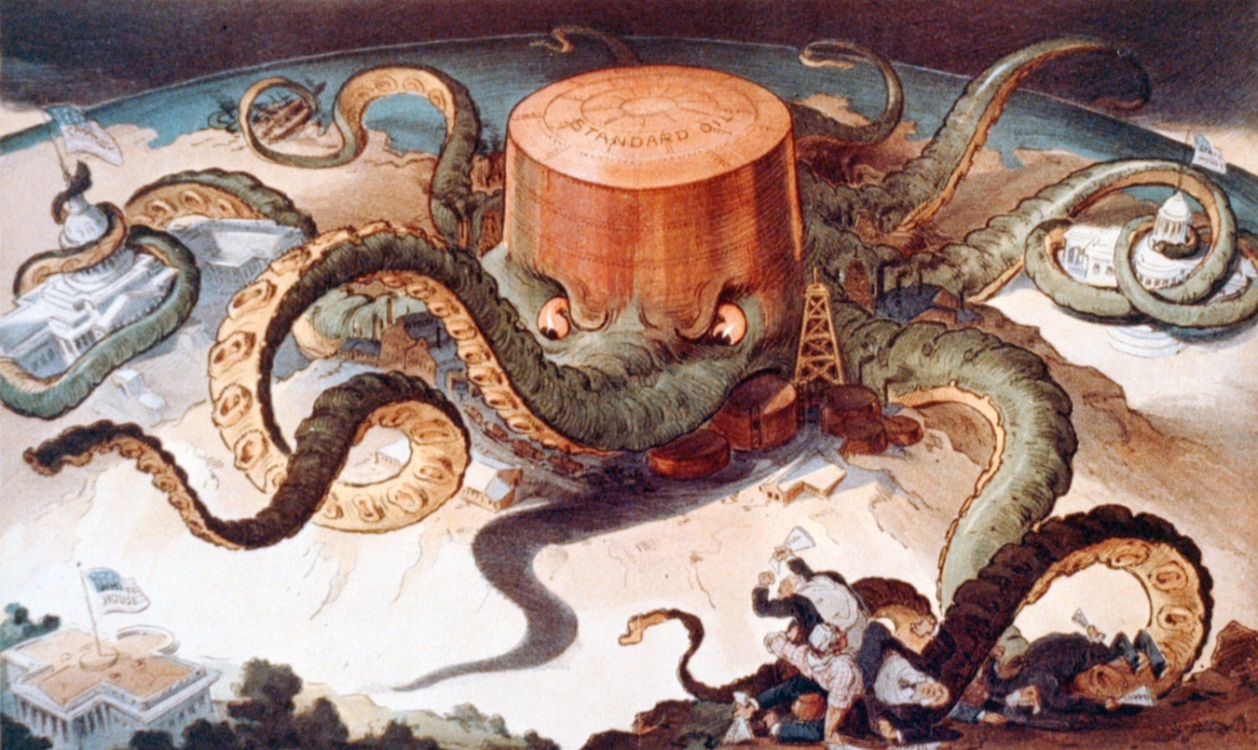
HONOR CODE PLEDGE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ BLOCK: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS**

*Study the three political cartoons below. Then, answer each of the questions about the cartoons in the space provided.*

**CARTOON #1**. The Standard Oil Trust Octopus



1. The Standard Oil Trust was viewed by many Americans as a threat to free enterprise, and a company with too much power over the government. We know that this octopus is a symbol of the Standard Oil Company because it is clearly labeled! In this cartoon, the octopus appears to be actively doing damage to at least four different groups. Two government buildings, a set of oil derricks and refineries, and a group of common American citizens are in its clutches. What do these symbols represent?

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2. What building is being threatened by the raised arm of the octopus in the left foreground? What does this seem to suggest symbolically?

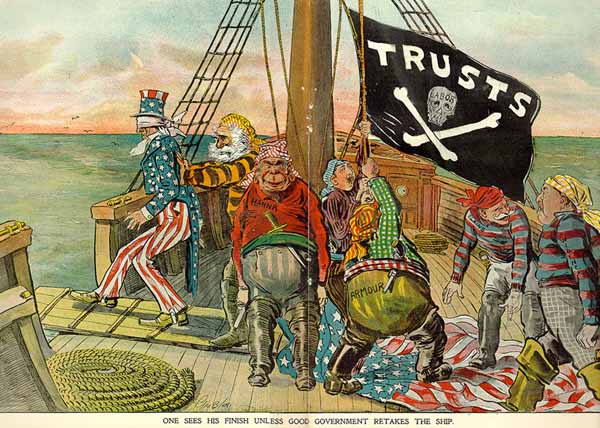
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3. How do we know that the cartoonist views the Standard Oil Trust in a negative manner? List at least three (3) context clues from the illustration as evidence.

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**CARTOON #2**. “One Sees His Finish Unless Good Government Regains the Ship.”



Philip Danforth Armour, owner of Armour meats – a meatpacking giant which controlled the industry in the Chicago area during the 1800s.

Uncle Sam. Who is Uncle Sam the symbol of? What’s happening to him?

Mark Hanna – the campaign manager of Republican President William McKinley, who supported the trusts.

Peter Widener, Pennsylvania businessman – supplied meat to Union army, then invested in rails, trolley cars near Philadelphia – supporter of trusts.

Stephen Elkins, owner of coal mines and railroad pool near modern day Elkins, WV.

1. What (or who) do the pirates on board this ship symbolize? What does it mean,

symbolically, that they have “taken over the ship?” In addition to some of the men who

are named for you, who might the American public have identified as leaders of the “trusts?”

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2. The cartoonist provides us with two (2) obvious indications that what the “trusts” and their supporters are doing *is not* in the interest of the United States of America. List both of the symbolic acts which are hurtful to the United States.

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3. Study the flag being raised by the pirates who have taken over the ship. The skull and crossbones have been labeled? What does this mean symbolically?

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**CARTOON #3**. The Protectors of Our Industries



1. The men on top this ship were some of the wealthiest railroad leaders and financiers in US History – Jay Gould, Cornelius Vanderbilt, and Russell Sage all owner railroads and participated in price-fixing schemes called “pools.” Cyrus Field – the man who put the transatlantic telegraph into place in the 1860s, owned a telephone company which had resulted in his great wealth and influence by the late 1800s. How are these men portrayed in this political cartoon?

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2. Now, study the men who – (like Atlas? No, not quite!) are holding up these business leaders during “hard times.” What types of jobs do these men and women have? Who seems to be working harder? How does their pay compare?

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3. How did the owners of monopolies, trusts, or railroad pools take advantage of the “common” man (workers and consumers) in order to make huge profits? Give at least two examples.

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